

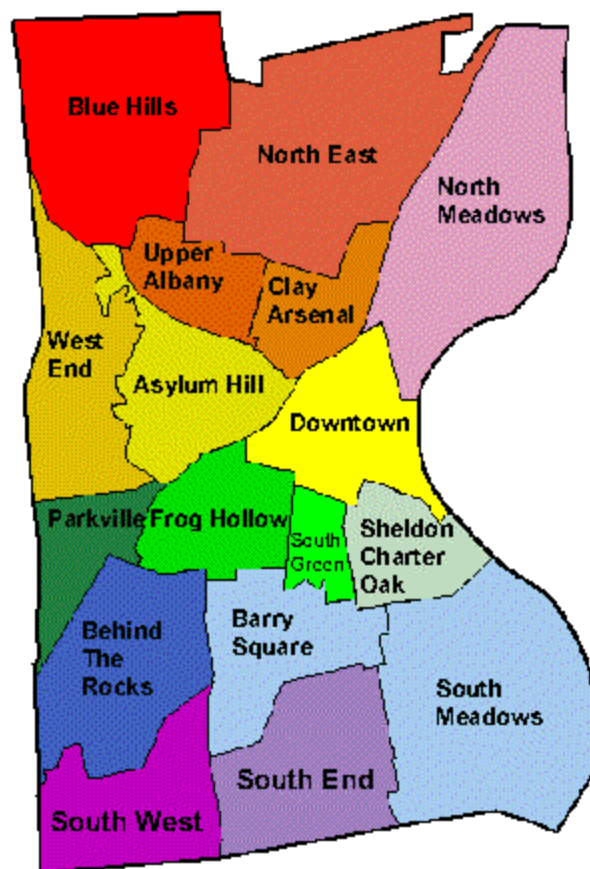
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Hartford, Connecticut

Profile of Drug Indicators

February 2001



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Hartford, Connecticut

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics

- Population: 128,367 (1999 estimate); 137,289 (1990 Census)¹
- Race/Ethnicity (1998): 21.7% white; 37.5% black; 0.2% Native American; 1.6% Asian; 0.5% other; 38.6% Hispanic²
- Poverty Rate (1990): 27.51%³

Politics⁴

- Mayor: Michael Peters
- City Manager: Sandra Kee Borges
- Court of Common Council members: Eugeno Caro; Steven Harris; Alphonse Marotta; John O'Connell; Marilyn Rossetti; Frances Sanchez; Elizabeth Horton Sheff; Lou Watkins; Veronica Airey-Wilson
- Chief of Police: Bruce Preston Marquis
- Hartford is the capital of Connecticut

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁵
The New England HIDTA was established in 1999 and includes Hartford County, Connecticut. The thousands of miles of coastline and the desolate U.S./Canadian border provide extensive opportunities for drug smuggling into the New England region. The New England HIDTA was designated in part due to the high purity heroin found throughout New England and the criminal groups trafficking heroin and crack cocaine from New York to New England.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed⁶
Some of the enforcement activities taking place in the Hartford Weed and Seed site include buy/busts, task force operations, and reverse stings. Those involved in this Weed and Seed site will also participate in community policing, neighborhood restoration, and other initiatives.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- In 1998, there were 3,782 drug abuse violations committed by adults in Hartford.⁷

Drug Abuse Violations, Hartford, 1992-1998

Year	Adult	Juvenile
1992	2,433	298
1994	3,368	471
1996	3,156	364
1998	3,782	481

- From January to November 2000, there were 785 robberies known to the police in Hartford. During the full year 1999, there were 771 robberies known to the police.⁸

Number of Offenses, Hartford, Jan.-Nov. 2000 and Full Year 1999

Offense	Jan.-Nov. 2000	Full Year 1999
Burglary	1,538	1,556
Larceny	5,694	5,908
Auto Theft	1,941	1,427
Murder	18	22
Rape	59	20
Robbery	785	771
Aggravated Assault	529	657

- During FY98/99, the North Central Office of Connecticut's Statewide Narcotics Task Force carried out 169 investigations in Hartford. During this time, this Task Force made 94 arrests in Hartford.⁹

Drugs¹⁰

- Cocaine: Powder cocaine is still widely available in the Capital region of Connecticut, and prices for this substance have recently jumped to nearly \$1,000 per ounce.
- Heroin: Heroin continues to show its prevalence in the Capital region. Recent investigations have proven that the current heroin supply in the area is strong. Heroin is sold in glassine bags or colored heat-sealed bags with a logo stamped on the bag. The purity of heroin in this area is on the rise, leading more of the users to snort heroin instead of inject it.
- Marijuana: This substance has remained prevalent in the Capital region. Undercover officers and informants are reporting prices ranging from \$700 to \$1,000 per pound in north central Connecticut.
- MDMA/Ecstasy: The North Central Office of the Statewide Narcotics Task Force has received reports of increased usage of MDMA by young people.

Trafficking and Seizures¹¹

- There has been a decline of cocaine hydrochloride seizures in the Hartford/Capital region of Connecticut.
- Heroin seizures were high during FY98/99 in the Capital region. The heroin seized was in the form of bullets, which is heroin encased in latex.
- Parcel interdiction of marijuana shipments has been the bulk of the seizures at the North Central Office of the Statewide Narcotics Task Force. These packages have ranged in size from a couple of pounds to 40 pounds.
- Throughout the entire North Central region of Connecticut, there was a total of 234.63 kg. of marijuana seized from 1998-99 by the North Central Office of the Statewide Narcotics Task Force.

Narcotics Seizures, North Central Connecticut, FY98/99

Drug Type	Weight (kg.)	Street Value (\$)
Cocaine	.91	61,679
Heroin	.59	941,791
Marijuana	234.63	1,956,736
Crack Cocaine	.46	16,158
Other		2,300
Total		\$2,978,664

Enforcement¹²

- As of October 31, 1999, there were 578 full-time law enforcement employees in Hartford. 462 of these employees were officers, and the remainder were civilians.

Courts

- As of March 31, 2000, there was one drug court in Hartford that had recently been implemented. This drug court is a juvenile drug court.¹³

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Estimates for Connecticut: <http://www.opm.state.ct.us/pdpd3/data/estimate.htm>

² 1998-99 Connecticut Town Profiles: <http://www.state.ct.us/ecd/research/townprof98/towns/hartford.pdf>

³ Ibid.

⁴ City of Hartford Web site: <http://ci.hartford.ct.us/>

⁵ New England HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/ne-main.html>

⁶ Hartford Weed and Seed Web site: http://www.hartfordpolice.com/Info_Pages/WeednSeed.htm

⁷ Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, State of Connecticut Social Indicator Data, Hartford: <http://www.dmhas.state.ct.us/sig/socialindicators/hartford.pdf>

⁸ Hartford Police Web site: http://199.105.73.70/Crime_Stats_Folder/City_Wide_stats.htm

⁹ Department of Public Safety, Connecticut State Police, *Statewide Narcotics Task Force, Annual Report 1998-1999*

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² FBI, *Crime in the United States 1999*, October 2000: <http://www.fbi.gov>

¹³ OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, March 31, 2000

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues, contact:

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